

# ETZ CHAIM

The Quarterly Journal of the  
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

Volume 20, No. 4

Greater Orlando, Central Florida Area

Fall, 2010

## Meetings Resume

After a summer hiatus, regular meetings will resume, September 28, 1 pm, CRJ. Tom Hirsch will present a program "*Tips to find your family, and How to collect, save and organize your precious memories*".

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Please mark your calendars now!

## Future IAJGS Meetings

**2011:** Washington, DC. August 14-19. Grand Hyatt Washington. Host is the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington. See <http://www.dc2011.org>.

**2012:** Paris, France. July 15-18. Paris Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel. Host is Le Cercle de Généalogie Juive

## Eulogy Given at the Memorial Service for Jay Schleichkorn

by Carl Migden

Jay and I have known one another for more than 12 years. We were first brought together by a common interest, "GENEALOGY". After a few years we both could not get enough of it. We were obsessed with it. Obviously, when we met at the monthly Jewish Genealogical Society meetings that's all we talked about, but even when we met monthly for lunch or, called one another on the telephone or, with e-mailing each other, it usually was about... Genealogy. Of course over the years we had other interests.

Jay and I were about 18 years apart, but this gap in age didn't hinder our friendship; maybe because we were both... "Bronx Boys".

Jay was born about 1 mile away from where I was born, in the West Bronx; that's in New

York City for those of you from the mid-west; (Just a little humor. I guess this is how we connected, both having Bronx accents, and being brought up in the old Borough. We could relate to names that have no meaning to most in this audience, but when we talked about the old days at the Paradise Movie Theatre, The Loewe's Grand Theater, Alexander's Department Store, Krum's Soda Fountain, Fordham Road, The Grand Con-

course, Jerome Avenue, the neighborhood Bronx Candy Store, etc. These names had a meaning to us because we both had memorable moments at these places. Obviously we did not have the memories together in the same time frame of course, but we could both visualize the old Bronx as if it were



JAY SCHLEICHKORN  
1925-2010

(Eulogy on page 7)



## ETZ CHAIM

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Please visit JGSGO's website at:  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~FLjgscf/>

JGSGO meetings are held monthly (excluding July and August), usually on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm in the mini-sanctuary, Congregation of Reform Judaism, 928 Malone Drive, Orlando Fl. Meeting dates may change due to the needs of the Synagogue. Please check the website for changes or call Doris Frank, 407-323-9728

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*The Federation of Genealogical Societies; and the Florida State Genealogical Societies.*

*As a member and under the umbrella of the IAJGS, the JGSGO is a 501(c)(3) United States tax-exempt, non-profit Corporation*

## Introducing "ETZ CHAIM" in Digital Format

*With this issue, we will be sending "The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando" electronically. The Board of Directors has voted to do this for several reasons:*

★ The loss of Jay Schleichkorn, our editor for the last 12 years who single-handedly produced "ETZ CHAIM", has put an unusual burden on the resources of the membership.

★ The cost of producing and mailing the "Journal" , budgeted at \$700/yr, represents an expense which could be better used for other more beneficial activities to the membership.

★ Other Genealogical organizations are finding it beneficial to convert to digital distribution.

★ For those members who wish to have a hard copy, they can print one from their own computer. For the balance of the year, those members without computers will receive a printed copy. Also, those entities such as libraries, etc., will also receive printed copies. A decision by the Board concerning subsequent years will be made during the coming months.

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*Membership Inquiries :Doris Frank, 407-323-9728*

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Raeburn Wallen

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,..."* is the opening line of Charles Dickens' book "A Tale of Two Cities." My wife and I were in Ohio for the summer when we heard that Jay had died suddenly in his sleep. It was like the worst of times. We could hardly believe it as Jay was so active in our society----single-handedly he edited and published "ETZ CHAIM", on the board, sitting on the right side of the mini-chapel for our regular meetings, giving us advice, selling 50-50 tickets for the bottles of wine he furnished, picking up our mail at the Maitland post office, greeting new and old arrivals to our meetings, presenting lectures at our meetings on genealogy, etc., etc., etc.

Before I took office, some had thought our society would fold because of lack of participation. Not Jay. No one can replace Jay, but we can keep his enthusiasm for the society alive by creating the best of times for our society.

Observing from a distance, it is the best of times. This year we had our largest attendance at the presentation of Joanie Schirm, excellent programs planned by Jerry Kurland (VP of programs) which brought many to our meetings, an increased membership as reported by Doris Frank (VP of Membership), an increase in our treasury as reported by Larry Morrell, updates on our minutes almost instantaneously by secretary Joel Nierenberg, volunteers sorting books in the library and providing refreshments for our meetings. I could go on and on about my observing from a distance of the suc-

cesses of the forums, etc.

### What about our future?

It *will* be the Best of Times.

Knowing that no one could replace Jay, the board decided that we should go electronic in our efforts-----so beginning with this issue, "ETZ CHAIM" is being distributed by email. Volunteers Edith Schulman will be acting editor and Herb Adler will temporarily produce the newsletter. We will need help with feature stories, and suggestions for what you would like to see in the newsletter. Looking over our membership list, only a few do not have email addresses and they will receive printed hard copies.

During this past year, we have sent the minutes to everyone online and this has saved us time at our regular meetings (this experiment proved that we can keep pace with the times and go electronic.) This means that we will have instant access to the "ETZ CHAIM" and we will have greatly reduced printing and postage costs. Since the items can be delivered to our editor and publisher online, it will save many hours of work for the staff.

Another item in the works is a possible blog for the society. Members could converse with one another about their successes (or even brick walls) and another member could respond with help. It would be available only for paid memberships. Members of the board are working on this and we will keep you posted.

Jay's family has donated his papers, books, etc. to our library, and these will be indexed. This

*"so beginning with this issue, Etz Chaim is being distributed by email"*

*(President on page 6)*

## Additional Comments on the passing of Jay Schleichkorn

Jerry Kurland, Vice President of JGSGO, made the following comments to express what Jay has meant to our society:

We will never be able to fill the void, but we want everyone to be aware of his many accomplishments.

At the Annual Meeting of the JGSGO, held December 22, 2009, Jay Schleichkorn received the Society's Lifetime Service Award for his various roles and activities related to Jewish Genealogy. Jay was a past president 1996-99, and officer as well as the editor of the society's newsletter/journal Etz Chaim for the past 12 years. The citation stated, "Etz Chaim is the JGSGO's lifeline in communication with its members providing the resources for genealogical research through editorials and outstanding articles"

Jay has been the guiding light and the bonding cement to keep his society educated with viable sources of knowledge to its members. As an editor, Jay had that magic literary touch to make his articles on genealogy stories come alive. ★

Joanie Schirm, writer, author of "My Dear Boy" a member of JGSGO since 2008 noted that "Since I received notice of Jay's passing, I have been so sad thinking about the loss of the very special and sweet Jay. When I joined the genealogy group, Jay was one of the first people to reach out with a welcome. He was so kind and open about his life, his experience and pride in writing his books, his worry that the family genealogy work he had done might not have the same level of interest from the young family members following him (something I am sure we all worry about), his pride in the genealogy organization and his contribution for the newsletter.

At any rate, Jay was genuinely a good man and I know that to the members of JGSGO his demise must be a tremendous loss. I feel fortunate I was able to know him even if only for a short while." ★

## Welcome JGSGO New Members:

David **SCHREIBER** & Vera **DASILVA**—Searching

- KAPLAN from Neshvish, Belarus (maternal grandmother).
- KAYLO, HOOKAYLO, and GUKAILO
- Variants of UMAN and BUKI or BUKY, Ukraine (maternal grandfather).
- GOODMAN and GUTMACHER from Warsaw and Zakroczym, Poland (paternal grandmother).  
SCHREIBER and SREBNICKI and variants from Lomza and Pultusk, Poland (paternal grandfather).

Marlis **HUMPHREY**— Searching

- BERMAN - ANYKSCIAI, LITHUANIA
- GLASER - ANYKSCIAI, LITHUANIA
- GELBOIM- SATANOV, BELOGORODKA, AND LECHOVITZ/BELOGORYE, UKRAINE
- DLUGACH- BELOGORODKA AND LECHOVITZ/BELOGORYE, UKRAINE

Michele **MASSONI-DUBUC**—Searching

- MASSONI

Mike & Vicky **WALLEN**-

## It's Your Turn !!!

*It's time to step up to the plate and take your turn at bat.*

Every year at this time, our bylaws require that we nominate members to take a position on the Board of Directors. Every year, it is a difficult task for the nominating committee to obtain willing participants. It seems like "Let someone else do it" is the mantra of those asked, or I'm too busy, I don't have the time, or I'm not qualified. Any number of excuses are proffered.

If it were not for the few perpetual repeat directors wanting to see the organization continue and thrive, the JGSGO could not exist. This is not fair! Think about it and when you are asked, say "YES".

*"Batter UP"*

## Make Your Grandchildren Family Historians

By Edith Schulman

You dig through old family papers; you get on a first-name basis with the woman at the county archives; you interview your 98-year-old great aunt and hope she remembers facts correctly. You write hundreds of letters and emails to people and institutions that might know something about your family. You even go through synagogue files and visit the cemetery where many of your ancestors are buried but...

You are able to gather only a small amount of the history you want. What to do? Who will carry on your genealogy work? With your children working and otherwise involved, they are not the ones to try to get interested in your genealogy project. So, let's look at your grandchildren!

This is the generation to get excited about their family history. I can only tell you my experiences and hope it works for you. When my grandsons were young, I used to invite them up on my bed, not to read fairy tales, but to tell them stories of our family (sometimes, I picked the ones that got in trouble or maybe my great grandfather who was part of the gold rush.) The boys loved the stories, and soon began asking for family stories.

When the boys were 10 and 12, my husband and I decided it was

time to take them to Nashville, where both Charles and I had grown up. We wanted them to see their roots, as well as know that Charles and I had once been young as they were. We left their parents' home (a must), borrowed my son's van, and off we went.

Before we left, I made a Family Tree for each of the boys, with not only names, but also dates of birth and death, where I had them.

In Nashville, we showed our grandsons the high schools where we had gone, the synagogue in which we had been married, the same synagogue in which my parents and grandparents also were wed.

We took a day to go to the Jewish Cemetery where most of our family is buried. Now was the time our grandsons would use the Family Trees I had made. I told them to find each person on the Tree, and to check the birth and death dates. (They caught me in one error!) The cemetery was not big like some of the cemeteries in large cities, and the boys could easily check from one end to the other for their ancestors. This was great fun for the boys. It was like a game, and they loved it - especially catching Grandma in a mistake. We took a picture of the boys in front of their great-great-great-grandfather's

*(Historians on page 7)*



Jordan and Bradley Schilit at the grave of their ggg-grandfather.

*Who  
will carry  
on your  
genealogy  
work?*

*(President from page 3)*

meant adding another bookcase, the second one added this year. Many of Jay's friends are contributing to his memory, and the board has designated that all monies will be directed toward the library in his name. Jay's son, Ray, has joined our society and will help write articles for "ETZ CHAIM".

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Marianne, and his family---we will miss him. BUT his life has inspired all of us to work harder and have a better genealogical future at JGSGO. He has given us a motive to have the BEST OF TIMES . ★

### **News About JewishGen\***

Warren Blatt, managing director of JewishGen, made a number of significant announcements at the annual conference. The most delightful is that for the first time in its history, JewishGen's income exceeded its operating expenses. This is due to the increased number of donations from people who use JewishGen. The next time you are solicited by JewishGen and have never contributed, consider what value it is to your family history research and make an appropriate donation. If you are already a contributor, when it is time to make your annual donation, consider kicking it up a notch. That extra money means greater growth for JewishGen.

Blatt indicated that JewishGen now has more than 16 million records in its databases and contains more than 50,000 web pages. Spend some of JewishGen's "profits" by creating a web page for your ancestral town. If you do not know how to create a web page, JewishGen will help you. For further information go to <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org>.

\*Excerpted from "Nu? What's Nu", Vol. 11, No. 14, July 25, 2010 published by AVOTAYNU, Inc. Used by permission.

To subscribe, <http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm>.

### **Former Member, Past President, Gene Starn, Writes.....**

Hello, Doris ....

Good hearing from you and that you're trying to continue "ETZ CHAIM". The first editor was Harry Katzman, now living in Boynton Beach. I took over from him. I'm now living in Palm Beach Gardens, Fl.

I was very sad to learn of Jay's passing. I still have my genealogy library, but am turning over my mother's family history to a young cousin living in Canada. The material consists of a filled-to-the-brim file drawer (a big one), plus CDs, books, manuscripts, etc.

The new thing here is Videography, where you just tell your life's history, as you remember it, into a camera where it's digitized on disk. But that's nothing like getting together with other genealogical nuts to discuss their woes and to help each other.

Not too many here have their family history, but they all regret not having put down their memories for future generations.

Incidentally, some of my best friends and acquaintances have turned out to be relatives I've gotten to know through genealogy. My winter favorites are two of my wife's cousins from Montreal. And I've recently had a cousin from Paris (France, that is) looking for one of her grandmother's sixth sister, who turned out to be my own grandmother from Kurov, Poland. They've been here for a visit, and I'm trying to convince them to come back again soon.

Best regards to all.

Gene Starn

## Preview of Coming Events

### **September 28; 1:00 P.M. CRJ Goldman Social Hall:**

Speaker: **Tom Hirsch**, JGSGO Member, Topic:

**"Interesting tips to find your family, and how to collect, save, and organize your precious memories."**

1. To demonstrate some websites, bookmarking, and organizing the websites in your web browser; organizing, and saving files, and backing up those files.
2. Provide information on doing serious research.
3. Demonstrate digitally photographing items to include in family history, and photostitching to combine photos into a single photo or record.
4. Available Freeware. **On-Line" Demo**

**October 26; 1:00 P.M. CRJ, Goldman Social Hall,**

Speaker from Atlanta, GA. **Peggy, Monsinger, Freed-**

**man**, Webmaster of LitvakSIG "All Lithuania" Database contains more than 790,000 records from many different sources, including complete Revision Lists as well as vital records. To provide an "On-Line-Forum showing our membership how to manipulate through this dynamic Web Site with all its data to serious researchers. Will review **"The JewishGen Lithuania Database"** Contains more than 960,000 records for Lithuania, from a variety of sources, including vital records, Revision Lists, business, books and other Holocaust sources.

**FOR MEMBERS ONLY** (*non members can join in order to take part in this program. \$12.50 until Dec.*)

*(Events on page 8)*

### *(Historians from page 5)*

tomb stone.

Next on the agenda was to visit the homes where Charles and I grew up. We actually went into the only house I lived in until I married. It was a fun place in which to grow up. There was a creek running through the back yard. It was a chance to tell the boys some of the games we played as children.

The trip wasn't all genealogy. We managed to find time for the Aquarium, Grand Ole Opry and time to visit Andrew Jackson's home. The boys' ears perked up when I told them that Andrew Jackson had had a duel with a man and killed him. The victim was buried next door to the house where I lived until I married Charles.

I had an indication of how much our grandsons enjoyed the trip. When the boys returned to school, they were each required to write an essay on their summer trip. Each boy wrote what a special trip it had been for him.

Maybe, just maybe, if I am lucky, my grandsons will continue the genealogy work I have begun.★

### *(Eulogy from page 1)*

yesterday.

There is a Bronx expression..."You can take the boy out of the Bronx, but you can't take the Bronx out of the boy"... So true!

Jay passed away in his sleep on Wednesday night. On Thursday afternoon when I read the e-mail from Doris Frank stating Jay's passing, I just couldn't believe it, or want to believe it. I lost my good friend, a Bronx friend, a genealogical friend.

Jay, after all you're genealogical researching over the years you can now rest in peace and meet all those passed away SCHLEICHKORN ancestors you researched and documented so enthusiastically. Now you can ask them all the genealogical questions you want... and get all the answers instantaneously. Jay, you are now in a Genealogical Gold Mine! (just some more humor). Have fun bugging all those relatives with all your questions... Who's your great, great grand-father?.... Where was he born?.... Did he come into New York City through Castle Gardens or Ellis Island?.... How many brothers and sisters were in the family?...etc. Jay, have a ball!★

**JGSGO Officers:**

Dr. Raeburn Wallen ..... President  
 Jerry Kurland..... Vice President, Programming  
 Doris Frank ..... Vice President, Membership  
 Larry Morrell ..... Treasurer  
 Joel Nierenberg.....Secretary  
 Marcie Wallen ..... Librarian  
 Jose Valle ..... Webmaster  
 Edith Schulman.....Director-at-Large  
 Herb Adler .....Director-at-Large

**ETZ CHAIM Staff:**

Open..... Editor  
 Edith Schulman..... Co-Editor  
 Herb Adler ..... Co- Production Editor  
 Helaine Blum..... Co-Production Editor  
 Riva Sorokurs..... Proof Reader  
 Jerry Kurland.....Design & Advertising

**Contributors:**

Doris Frank; Jerry Kurland; Carl Migden; Joanie Schirm; Edith Schulman; Raeburn Wallen

**Calendar:**

Sept. 14 Board Meeting, 2 pm  
 Sept. 28 Tom Hirsch: How to collect, save, & organize your precious memories, 1 pm  
 Oct. 12 Board Meeting, 2 pm  
 Oct. 26 Peggy Freedman –"The JewishGen Lithuania Database", 1 pm.  
 Nov. 9 Board Meeting, 2 pm  
 Nov. 23 At Orange County Main Library-Become acquainted with the vast library collection; Get research assistance from library staff, 1:30 pm  
 Dec. 14 Board Meeting, 2 pm  
 Dec. 28 Installation Of Officers-Program TBA

***(Events from page 7)***

*2010 or \$37.50 single membership until Dec 2011)*

Ms. Freedman has consented to do some preliminary research before the meeting for those members who will provide the name of the immigrant ancestor and as much information as a person has, including immigrant's spouse, children, parents, and siblings. Include dates and places of birth, marriage and death for each person. Also, all the places that you know that they lived. Maximum allowable are 10 names. The following members have requested information to date: 1. Charlene Kuhn, 2. Cheryl Hanin, 3. Doris Frank, 4. Marlis Humphrey, 5. Shirley Michael, 6. Ted Lewis, 7. Riva Sorokurs, 8. Jerry Kurland. In order to defray some of the costs, we will ask for a contribution of a minimum of \$7.50 per name submitted, to be paid only if your relative's name is selected. Ms. Freedman also takes people on a trip each year to Lithuania helping to discover where your relatives once lived.

**December 28 (Tentative) Members Social Event,** Installation of Officers. Location & time to be announced;

"**Round Table Discussion II**" where members will be able to relate "interesting ancestral tales."

"As individuals and as a group we have spent considerable time and effort building a kind of structural picture of our family heritage. Some of us have many spaces filled in, some of us have few, but most often this is simply a diagrammatic representation of our past. Hopefully many of you have been on the receiving end of an oral history given to you by a parent, grandparent or other relative. Many of these stories might take place in foreign countries, diverse cultures, during historically significant times and places. Some might be funny, some tragic but in any event, these stories, if told, might be very rewarding for our membership. Please let us know if you would like to present some anecdotal material to the group. We need enough people with stories to put together a program" RSVP. Jerry Kurland, V.P. Programs 407-682-7799 surrealgraphics@embarqmail.com

**Support JGSGO—Take an active role —Join your Board of Directors**